

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS' COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS OPENS IN ADDIS ABABA

1. A PREPARATORY MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS OPENED IN ADDIS ABABA AUGUST 26 TO DEVELOP POSITIONS FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR MEXICO CITY SEPTEMBER 13-21. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, THE MEXICO CITY MEETING WILL BE A FOLLOW-UP TO UNCTAD IV HELD IN NAIROBI IN MAY. THE FIVE-DAY EXPERTS MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA IS BEING JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY. THE PROPOSALS DEVELOPED BY THE EXPERTS' COMMITTEE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AN OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ADDIS ABABA SEPTEMBER 1-4 WHICH WILL FINALIZE THE AFRICAN POSITIONS. ISSUES SUCH AS COMMODITIES, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE DEALT WITH THE DEVELOP UNIFIED AFRICAN POSITIONS FOR THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE.

2. THE OAU HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE
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MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS WHICH SAYS THAT THE AFRICAN

APPROACH WILL, IN GENERAL, INSIST ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST HAVE AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE MAKING OF DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY; B) THEY MUST HAVE CONTROL NOT ONLY OVER THEIR OWN NATURAL RESOURCES BUT ALSO OVER HOW THOSE RESOURCES ARE EXPLOITED AND FOR WHOSE BENEFIT; C) THEY MUST PLAY A PART IN DETERMINING THE PRICES OF THEIR PRODUCTS WHICH ARE SOLD ON WORLD MARKETS AND THE PRICES THEY PAY FOR IMPORTED GOODS; AND D) THEY MUST HAVE AN EFFECTIVE SAY ON THE SORT OF MONETARY SYSTEM WHICH IS TO SERVICE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HOW IT IS OPERATED.

3. THE OAU STATEMENT CONTINUED "THESE POINTS EXPLAIN WHY THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS 27TH ORDINARY SESSION IN MAURITIUS EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN AT THE SYSTEMATIC REJECTION BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO ALLEVIATE THE INJUSTICE AND IMBALANCE IN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND WHY THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN THE NEED FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVES OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER."

4. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE EXPERTS' PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL SESSION AS DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.
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